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EXCELLENT SERMON
THIS MORNING.

This morning Dr. Thacker took as his subject "Man Mightier than his Difficulties." The text was from Revelation, 3:4 "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with men in white for they are worthy."

Sardis was one of the chief cities of Asia Minor, a manufacturing city of great wealth. With her wealth there had come worldliness, vice and iniquity. These sins had found their way into the church, yet God said there are few names, even in Sardis, which have not defiled their garments.

First the text teaches that man is mightier than the circumstances about him while even the church of Sardis had become honeycombed with sin, yet some had kept themselves spotless. Sardis is gone, in ruins, but the spirit of Sardis is still here, for not yet has Jesse won America, nor yet has he won Wilson. There are temptations on every side. First, there are temptations in the home. It was in Job's home when afflictions came thick and fast upon him his wife advised him to curse God and die, so there are temptations in the Christian home today; Second, there are temptations in business. "A gentleman in Norfolk said to me the other day," said the preacher, "That it was practically impossible to be a Christian in his business and to lead a real Christian life. And yet God has said to us 'be fervent in business serving the Lord.'"

There are temptations in social life. We have our divorce courts, I worldly homes, card playing and dancing, all of these things are evidences of the fact that there are temptations in our social life that are not conducive to the growth of Christian character. There are temptations in our heart. Paul realized that when he said "When I would do good evil is present with me." And so for every Christian there is the fight in his own heart. These days God is calling Christians to set apart themselves for definite Christian service for Him. Are we listening to his call or yielding to the temptations of our hearts to think of the things of self?

God calls "come ye out from them and be ye separate." Only when we do that shall we find that our light shines brightest and farthest. Milton becoming physically blind gave the world Paradise Lost. Bunyon in prison wrote "Pilgrims Progress." In the temptations of business and the allurements of pleasure are circumstances over which the Christian becomes stronger in Christ Jesus.

Second, the text teaches temptation is no excuse for worldliness. We offer our surroundings, pressure of business as excuses for failure to do our duty to Sunday School and to church. Paul was tempted yet remained true to God. Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. When tempted of Satan to eat Jesus said "Man shall not live by bread alone." "Do you know we have gotten down to the bread basis these days?" said the preacher. "We think we must look after home cares and the education of our children. We seem to think these are first things, but are they? Better for your child not to know even a single letter if in educating him you should keep him away from the influence of Christianity."

Jesus would not take the Devil's way to accomplish Divine purpose. He took God's way, one that even led through persecutions and trial, and we must learn to do the same thing for temptations are no excuse.

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